

## The Honorable Robert J. Bryan

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**

11 || STATE OF WASHINGTON.

NO. 3:17-cv-05806-RJB

12 Plaintiff,

## **GEO GROUP'S MOTION TO COMPEL**

13 | v.

**NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:  
September 14, 2018**

14 | THE GEO GROUP, INC.,

## Defendant.

27 STATE OF WASHINGTON V. GEO  
28 GROUP  
ECF CASE NO. 3:17-cv-05806-RJB  
GEO GROUP'S MOTION TO COMPEL

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## INTRODUCTION

Discovery is a two-way street and the rules governing it apply to all parties – even the government. “When the government seeks affirmative relief, it is fundamentally unfair to allow it to evade discovery of materials that a private plaintiff would have to turn over.” *E.E.O.C. v. California Psychiatric Transitions*, 258 F.R.D. 391, 398 (E.D. Cal. 2009). Unfortunately here, that is exactly what the State is trying to do. Despite aggressively pressing GEO for voluminous documents and information, the State has made little-to-no effort to comply with its own obligations and has actively obstructed GEO’s efforts to defend itself. Given that the State is seeking tens of millions – if not hundreds of millions – of dollars in disgorgement of profits<sup>1</sup> from GEO, GEO must be given the opportunity to defend itself and obtain information directly relevant to its affirmative defenses. But the State is stonewalling.

12       First, the State is asserting an unreasonably narrow definition of the scope of its discovery  
13 obligations. Despite representing “The State of Washington,” the Attorney General’s Office  
14 (“AGO”) claims it does not have possession, custody or control of documents, nor knowledge of  
15 facts related to State Agencies other than the AGO’s own files. This even includes the Department  
16 of Labor & Industries, which the State specifically listed under the parties’ section in its complaint.  
17 As detailed below, the courts are clear that the State is required to preserve and produce relevant  
18 documents from State Agencies, not just the AGO’s own files.

19        Further, even under the more narrow scope asserted by the AGO, the State has still failed  
20 comply with the discovery rules. The AGO admits that it has not made a reasonable inquiry into  
21 information held by its own AGO subdivisions – including its subdivisions for the Department of  
22 Labor and Industries, the Department of Corrections, or the Department of Social and Health  
23 Services – even though GEO’s discovery requests specifically sought information from these AGO  
24 divisions. At the same time, the AGO certified that the State had no responsive information from

<sup>1</sup> GEO is in no way conceding that such damages would be appropriate, but as the State has not yet articulated a damage model, it is difficult to ascertain the extent of the damages sought.

1 these divisions. Without a reasonable inquiry of the above-mentioned departments, this response  
 2 is a clear and troubling violation of Rule 26(g)(1).  
 3

4 Finally, the State also refuses to provide the names of custodians from whom it collected  
 5 specific documents. Instead, the AGO provided (after multiple meet-and-confer efforts) a  
 6 spreadsheet that lists a series of cryptic abbreviations such as “AGO,” “AGO ADM,” and “AGO  
 7 CRU.” This is problematic for two reasons. First, it makes it impossible for GEO to determine  
 8 when individuals at the AGO were put on notice of the work program at the NWDC, a component  
 9 of GEO’s defense of laches. Second, without custodian information, it is hard to determine the  
 10 sufficiency of the State’s discovery efforts. As discussed below, this is information required to be  
 11 provided under FRCP 34, and is no less than the State itself requested for GEO’s productions.  
 12

#### **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE, FED. R. CIV. P. 26(C) AND L.C.R. 26(C)**

13 In compliance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c) and L.C.R. 26(c), GEO certifies that it has met and  
 14 conferred with the State’s counsel in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action, prior to  
 15 the filing of this motion. Specifically, counsel for GEO and counsel for the State have met and  
 16 conferred telephonically eight times – on April 30, May 25, June 12, June 15, June 25, June 27,  
 17 August 8, and August 21, 2018 – regarding various discovery issues, including the State’s  
 18 obligation to produce records in the possession of State agencies and the entirety of the AGO’s  
 19 office, and metadata deficiencies in its productions. *Declaration of Andrea L. D’Ambra in Support*  
*of Defendant’s Motion to Compel* (“D’Ambra Decl.”) at ¶ 3-6.

#### **FACTS**

20 GEO served its first set of discovery, including requests for production, on January 5, 2018.  
 21 The State responded to State’s requests on February 5, 2018. D’Ambra Decl. at ¶ 2, Ex. 1. GEO  
 22 received the State’s First production of documents of 239 documents on April 3, 2018. D’Ambra  
 23 Decl. at ¶ 2. Despite the size of this production, the April 3 documents were produced in an  
 24 unusable form, absent any metadata. On April 11, the State belatedly provided GEO with a list of  
 25 its own production specifications, including requiring documents to be provided with custodian and  
 26

1 author metadata. D'Ambra Decl. at ¶ 3. GEO provided the State with a list of its own production  
 2 specifications on April 27, 2018. D'Ambra Decl. at ¶ 3, Ex. 2 at 3-6. The State agreed to comply  
 3 with these specifications in a May 2, 2018 letter. *Id.* at ¶ 3. The State provided a re-production of  
 4 these documents on June 6, 2018, the majority of which were produced without custodian  
 5 information or author field data. *Id.*

6 On June 22, 2018, the State informed GEO for the first time that “[t]he Civil Rights Unit of  
 7 the Washington State Attorney General’s Office . . . does not control documents or information  
 8 from any other units or any of the State Agencies those units represent . . .” D'Ambra Decl. at ¶ 4.  
 9 During a meet and confer on June 27, 2018, counsel for the State reversed course, admitting that it  
 10 did have control over documents within the AGO beyond the CRU division, but that the State’s  
 11 search and collection efforts thus far had been limited to the CRU division of the AGO. D'Ambra  
 12 Decl. at ¶ 4. On June 28, 2018 the State confirmed its stance that it controlled information held by  
 13 all divisions of the AGO, but did not control State Agencies. D'Ambra Decl. at ¶ 4, Ex. 3 at 1 (July  
 14 28, 2018 Letter).

15 GEO served its second set of discovery, including requests for production, requests for  
 16 admission and additional interrogatories, on July 2, 2018. The State responded to this discovery  
 17 on August 1, 2018. D'Ambra Decl. at ¶ 5, Ex. 4-5. In its responses, the State maintained its position  
 18 that documents possessed by State agencies are outside the control of the State of Washington and  
 19 the Attorney General’s Office, but stated that “[w]ithout waiving any objection, Washington has  
 20 no documents responsive to this Request.” *See* RFP Nos. 46, 51-63. On August 20, 2018, the State  
 21 informed GEO that it had “not searched the Attorney General’s Office for documents responsive  
 22 to GEO’s Requests for Production Nos. 46 or 51-63.” D'Ambra Decl. at ¶ 6. During an August  
 23 21 meet and confer GEO asked how the State could say it had no documents in its possession, if it  
 24 had never searched for documents, but the State did not respond. D'Ambra Decl. at ¶ 6. Moreover,  
 25 the State informed GEO that it had not searched for documents in the possession of AGO divisions  
 26 that represent State agencies, and instead argued that it should not be required to search for such

documents because they would be privileged or covered by the work product doctrine. *Id.* GEO's counsel provided examples of documents that would not be covered by either privilege or the work product doctrine, such as executed contracts, documents received from or sent to outside parties, and documents produced by the State in other litigation. *Id.*

After nearly two months of negotiations and multiple discussions on why custodian information was necessary, the State finally agreed to provide GEO with custodian metadata information. D’Ambra Decl. at ¶ 7. However, it was not until August 20, 2018 that the State informed GEO that it would give GEO a spreadsheet with the custodian information, instead of a typical production with a load file, in accordance with the April 27, 2018 production specifications. The State provided GEO with an excel spreadsheet containing information on the first production on August 22, 2018. That same day, the State also produced an additional 238 documents. The “custodian” data provided in the excel spreadsheet for the first production identified documents from only three ‘divisions’ in the Attorney General’s Office – the “AGO,” the “AGO CRU” and the “AGO ADM.” D’Ambra Decl. at ¶ 7, Ex. 6. The custodian data for the second production similarly listed documents only from these three divisions at the AGO. D’Ambra Decl. at ¶ 7, Ex. 7. No names of actual individual custodians were provided.

## **LEGAL AUTHORITY**

“A party seeking discovery may move for an order compelling disclosure or discovery.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(a)(1). “The moving party bears the burden of demonstrating that the information it seeks is relevant and that the responding party's objections lack merit.” *Hancock v. Aetna Life Ins. Co.*, 321 F.R.D. 383, 390 (W.D. Wash. 2017) (citing *Bluestone Innovations LLC v. LG Elecs., Inc.*, No. C1301770SI (EDL), 2013 WL 6354419, at \*2 (N.D. Ca. Dec. 5, 2013)).

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34(a) requires parties to produce documents in their “possession, custody or control.” The party seeking production of the documents bears the burden of proving that the opposing party has such control.” *U.S. v. Int’l Union of Petroleum*, 870 F.2d at

1 1452 (citing *Norman v. Young*, 422 F.2d 470, 472-73 (10th Cir. 1970)). “Control is defined as the  
 2 legal right to obtain documents upon demand.” *Id.* at 1452 (9th Cir. 1989).

3 Washington State is the named party in this case. The State has control over information  
 4 possessed by State agencies. *See Wilson v. Washington*, No. C16-5366 BHS, 2017 WL 518615  
 5 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 8, 2017) (compelling the State of Washington to produce citizen complaints and  
 6 investigatory files held by State agencies). The AGO also has the legal right to obtain information  
 7 from State agencies as a legal adviser for the State. *See State v. Reed*, 429 P.2d 870 (Wash. 1967).  
 8 Courts in the Ninth Circuit have also found that the AGO has control on the basis of its relationship  
 9 with State agencies. *Bovarie v. Schwarzenegger*, No. 08CV1661 LAB NLS, 2011 WL 767249, at  
 10 \*5 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 25, 2011) (finding that the AGO had control over Plaintiff’s medical records in  
 11 the possession of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“CDCR”)).  
 12

## ARGUMENT

### I. GEO Seeks Relevant Information Pertaining To Its Affirmative Defenses

14 The State has objected to the production of documents and information, including those  
 15 pertaining to the Department of Labor and Industries (“L&I”), the Department of Corrections  
 16 (“DOC”), the Department of Social and Health Services (“DSHS”), and the Governor’s Office, on  
 17 the basis that it does not have possession, custody, or control of this information, and the  
 18 information is not relevant. The State has also objected to searching or producing documents held  
 19 by AGO subdivisions that represent these entities, on the basis that these documents (which the  
 20 State has not searched or reviewed) are entirely privileged. GEO seeks this information because it  
 21 is extremely relevant to GEO’s affirmative defenses of unclean hands and laches. *See* Ex. 1,  
 22 Requests for Production Nos. 13, 33-34, Interrogatory No. 13; Ex. 4, Requests for Production Nos.  
 23 46, 51-63; Ex. 5, Requests for Admission Nos. 1-3, 5-7, 9-16, 33-37.  
 24

25 GEO alleged that the State has unclean hands because the State, through its agencies, the  
 26 DOC and DSHS, and through its delegated authorities to State municipal jails, operates work  
 27 programs that pay rates far below the State minimum wage. *See, e.g.*, RFP 57 (“Documents

sufficient to show all amounts paid to prisoners/detainees incarcerated or detained by Washington State who participated in offender work programs since 2005.”). Information such as compensation of persons detained at State work programs, State work program policies (RFP 51, 52, 57), and State contracts with entities providing detention services in Washington (RFP 53), would all be relevant to GEO’s allegation that the State pays prisoners and detainees a subminimum wage.

GEO also asserted that the State had unduly delayed in pursuing this lawsuit, as for twelve years preceding this complaint, the State, through the AGO, L&I or the Governor’s Office, had never pursued an enforcement action against GEO despite knowing about its Voluntary Work Program. *See, e.g.*, RFA 1 (“Admit that the State has not previously sought to enforce the Minimum Wage Act or bring unjust enrichment claims against GEO or ICE for detainees at the Northwest Detention Center.”). Information such as the lack of State enforcement actions against GEO (RFA 1, 3), the lack of notice to GEO or ICE that the minimum wage act applies to GEO (Interrogatory 13, RFA 5), and the State’s knowledge of the Voluntary Work Program (RPD 34), would all be relevant to GEO’s allegation that the State has wrongfully delayed in bringing suit against GEO.

## **II. The State Has Failed To Produce Information Under Its Control Or In Its Possession**

### **A. The State Has The Legal Right to Obtain Information In the Possession of State Agencies.**

The State asserts that it does not have possession, custody or control of State agency information, despite admitting “the Washington Attorney General’s Office’s client in this lawsuit is the State of Washington.” RFA 8. This case is not styled “Attorney General of the State of Washington, Civil Rights Unit v. The GEO Group.” The State of Washington is the named party.

The State of Washington has control over information in the possession of State agencies. *Wilson v. Washington*, No. C16-5366 BHS, 2017 WL 518615 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 8, 2017). In *Wilson v. Washington*, Plaintiff sued the State of Washington, the DSHS, and Special Commitment Center (“SCC”) employee Dr. Sziebert, alleging he was unconstitutionally detained at the SCC. Plaintiff sought two categories of documents from Defendants: 1) citizen complaints regarding civil

1 confinement by the State of Washington, and 2) State investigations of Dr. Sziebert. Defendants  
 2 objected on the basis that it lacked control over agencies not named as parties. The *Wilson* court  
 3 rejected this argument, finding that “[t]he State offers no substantive explanation why it cannot  
 4 provide” complaints filed against the State. *Id.* at \*3. Moreover, “**the State [has] . . . authority to**  
 5 **obtain documents regarding any State Agency** investigation of Doctor Sziebert.” *Id.* The State  
 6 has the authority to obtain information from State agencies, and must produce this information.  
 7

8           **B. As the State’s Legal Adviser, the AGO May Obtain Information From**  
**State Agencies.**

9           To the extent the AGO argues that its control is limited to the AGO, this is contrary to  
 10 Washington law. The AGO represents the State of Washington in this litigation in a *parens patriae*  
 11 capacity, and may obtain information from State agencies by virtue of its role as legal adviser to  
 12 the State. *See State v. Reed*, 429 P.2d 870, 872 (Wash. 1967). In *State v. Reed*, the State of  
 13 Washington filed a motion to compel Defendant’s medical records, which were also in the  
 14 possession of a state hospital. The Supreme Court of Washington found that the State’s Motion  
 15 was inappropriate, because the State could have “proceed[ed] along the lines available to the state  
 16 for obtaining evidence by other means” instead of “demand[ing] that the defendant supply it.” *Id.*  
 17 at 872. Citing RCW 43.10.030 and RCW 43.10.040, the *Reed* court argued that the State could  
 18 have had the AGO request these documents from the state-run hospital because Attorney Generals  
 19 are “adviser[s] on legal matters” to state agencies. *Id.* Other courts applying the legal right test  
 20 have found that an AG’s control over State entity documents stems from its statutory power to  
 21 represent state agencies. *Bd. of Educ. of Shelby Cty., Tenn. v. Memphis City Bd. of Educ.*, No. 2:11-  
 22 CV-02101-SHM, 2012 WL 6003540, at \*3 (W.D. Tenn. Nov. 30, 2012) (AGO representing State  
 23 of Tennessee had control over General Assembly documents “[b]ased upon these statutory duties  
 24 to handle “all legal services,” “direct and supervise” all litigation, and “represent” the State of  
 25 Tennessee.). Pursuant to statutory authority as outlined in *Reed*, the AGO may request documents  
 26 from State agencies under its statutory power to represent them as an adviser on legal matters.

The AGO also has control over State agency information because it possesses the “requisite relationship” or “affiliation” with State agencies. *Ochotorena v. Adams*, No. 1:05-CV-01524-LJODLB, 2010 WL 1035774, at \*3 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 19, 2010) (quoting *Allen v. Woodford*, 2007 WL 309945, at \*2 (E.D. Cal. Jan. 30, 2007)). In *Ochotorena v. Adams*, the California AGO represented officers employed with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“CDCR”), but resisted discovery of documents possessed by the CDCR. 2010 WL 1035774 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 19, 2010). The *Ochotorena* court rejected the AGO’s claimed lack of control: “[i]t is this Court’s experience that either individual defendants who are employed by CDCR and/or the Attorney General can generally obtain documents, such as the ones at issue here, from CDCR by requesting them. If that is the case, then, based on their relationship with CDCR, they have constructive control over the requested documents and the documents must be produced.” *Id.* at \*3. Courts in the Ninth Circuit have similarly ruled that the Attorney General’s Office may generally obtain documents from state entities. *Bovarie v. Schwarzenegger*, No. 08CV1661 LAB NLS, 2011 WL 767249, at \*5 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 25, 2011) (finding that the AGO had control over Plaintiff’s medical records in the possession of the CDCR); *Alexander v. California Dep’t of Corr.*, No. 2:08-CV-2773, 2010 WL 4069953, at \*3 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 18, 2010) (authorizing *subpoena duces tecum* on California AGO for non-party California Department of Justice documents).

Case law and common sense show a relationship between the Washington AGO and Washington State agencies such as L&I and DOC. First, as described above, the Washington Supreme Court and courts in the Ninth Circuit have found that the State or the AGO has control over information held by State agencies. The Washington AGO contains legal divisions that specifically represents and advises State agencies. *See, e.g.*, <https://www.atg.wa.gov/corrections> (“Corrections Division staff represents and advises the Department of Corrections . . .”); <https://www.atg.wa.gov/labor-industries> (“The Labor and Industries Division represents and advises the Department of Labor and Industries regarding . . . questions about fair wages and prevailing wage requirements . . .”). The State has provided GEO with no “factual support for the

1 assertion that, in spite of their relationship to [State agencies], they do not have possession, custody  
 2 or control of the requested documents.” *See Woodall v. California*, No. 1:08-CV-01948-OWW,  
 3 2010 WL 4316953, at \*6 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 22, 2010) (ordering AGO of the State of California to  
 4 produce CDCR documents, unless it can “provide factual support.”).

5 At the very least, the State is obligated to exhaust all practical means at its disposal by  
 6 making a request of these agencies, before claiming that it does not have control over State agency  
 7 information. *See Maria Del Socorro Quintero Perez, CY v. United States*, No. 13CV1417-WQH-  
 8 BGS, 2016 WL 705904, at \*5 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 23, 2016) (Defendant, a DHS employee prohibited  
 9 by *Touhy* from disclosing documents, “had a duty to make a request of [DHS] . . . before stating  
 10 that he lacked possession, custody or control.”). The State has done nothing to attempt to obtain  
 11 documents from other State agencies, and has not even submitted a request to L&I, DOC, DSHS,  
 12 or the Governor’s Office in response to GEO’s requests.

13

**C. The State Represents the State of Washington and the Department of  
 14 Labor and Industries In This Litigation, And Cannot Shirk Its Discovery  
 15 Obligations By Limiting Discovery To The Attorney General’s Office**

16 Although the State claims that it has no control over State agency information (which GEO  
 17 disputes), at the very least the State has control over the Washington State Department of Labor  
 18 and Industries. The State may not simultaneously enforce laws and regulations enforced or  
 19 promulgated by L&I, and shirk its responsibility to produce information in L&I’s possession.

20 The State has asserted that because the State of Washington is the client in this litigation, it  
 21 only has an obligation to produce information within the possession, custody, or control of the  
 22 AGO. Even if this Court found that a narrower standard applied, GEO would certainly be entitled  
 23 to information held by L&I. In *United States v. Novartis Pharm. Corp.*, defendant sought to compel  
 24 eleven state plaintiffs to produce information from all of their agencies. The court rejected going  
 25 so far, instead compelling production from the agency “at issue” for each state, defined as the  
 26 “agencies that run each state’s Medicaid program.” 2014 WL 6655703, at \*10 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 24,  
 27 2014). Although case law outside the Ninth Circuit is less than persuasive on this Court,

nevertheless, under this standard, GEO would be entitled to information held by L&I because L&I is clearly the agency “at issue” in this litigation. L&I has an interest in and connection to the claims or defenses in this litigation, namely, the enforcement of minimum wage laws. Similarly, in *New York ex rel. Boardman v. Nat'l R.R. Passenger Corp.*, the Northern District of New York found that although the AGO was representing the State of New York’s interests, it was doing so under the authority of the Department of Transportation, which had “the authority to protect or defend its constitutional and statutory mandates” under the circumstances of the case. 233 F.R.D. 259, 265 (N.D.N.Y. 2006). Although GEO again disagrees that it is not entitled to relevant information held by each of the State’s agencies, GEO would be entitled to L&I documents under this standard. The AGO has brought this action as the chief legal adviser to the State of Washington for “the enforcement of minimum wage laws.” Dkt. 1-1 ¶ 3.5 at p. 3. L&I also has the statutory authority to “adopt and implement rules to carry out and enforce” minimum wage laws. RCW 49.46.810. Moreover, in its complaint, under the Parties Section, the State describes L&I as a “state agency” that “enacts rules and operates enforcement programs to help ensure compliance with the State’s wage laws.” Dkt. 1-1 ¶ 3.2 at p. 2. The State has an obligation to produce information in the possession of L&I. The State illogically asserts that it has the power to enforce a minimum wage claim, but has no obligation to produce information possessed by the State agency that enforces Washington’s minimum wage law.

#### **D. The State Has Failed To Search For And Produce Documents In The Possession of the Attorney General’s Office**

Documents located outside of the Civil Rights Unit (“CRU”) of the AGO are likely to contain information relevant to GEO’s affirmative defenses. As a result, GEO has repeatedly requested documents possessed by divisions of the AGO tasked with representing State agencies such as the DOC and L&I in litigation. Although the State previously stated that it had searched the entire AGO for relevant documents responsive to GEO’s first set of requests, the State’s own representations suggest this is false. The State admitted on June 28 that it had not searched for

1 documents outside the CRU. D'Ambra Decl. at ¶ 4. When pressed on this issue, the State admitted  
 2 that there was **"no value" in searching for documents** in the possession of AGO divisions that  
 3 represent State agencies, because the documents would all be work product. The State reaffirmed  
 4 this position even after GEO specified numerous categories of nonprivileged documents likely in  
 5 the possession of these divisions, including executed contracts.<sup>2</sup> D'Ambra Decl. at ¶ 6. Finally,  
 6 the State's deficient custodial metadata indicates that the State has only produced documents from  
 7 three locations within the AGO, the CRU and the ADM, and the "AGO."

8       The AGO is required to conduct a "reasonable inquiry" to determine whether it has  
 9 documents responsive to GEO's requests. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(g). The State signed a verification to  
 10 the responses to GEO's First and Second Set of Requests that it had conducted a reasonable inquiry,  
 11 but did not even conduct searches of documents within the entirety of the AGO's office. *See*  
 12 *Mancia v. Mayflower Textile Servs. Co.*, 253 F.R.D. 354, 358 (D. Md. 2008) (Rule 26(g) "was  
 13 enacted over twenty-five years ago to bring an end to the equally abusive practice of objecting to  
 14 discovery requests . . . **without a factual basis**."). Based on the State's responses and objections,  
 15 the State has done no due diligence to determine whether it has responsive documents located  
 16 within other divisions of the AGO. Even if this Court finds that the AGO does not have control  
 17 over other State agencies, "[c]learly, the Attorney General has control over documents within all  
 18 divisions of [his] office," and must produce "documents [obtained] from other agencies by virtue  
 19 of having represented those agencies in separate litigation." *Com. v. Ortho-McNeil-Janssen*  
 20 *Pharm., Inc.*, 2012 WL 5392617, at \*4 (Mass. Super. Oct. 5, 2012).

### 21       **III. The State Has Failed To Produce Documents Containing Metadata In The Ordinary 22 Course of Business**

23       Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34(b)(2)(E)(i)-(ii) requires parties to produce documents  
 24 either as they were kept "in the usual course of business" or to organize and label them to

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25  
 26       <sup>2</sup> The AGO approved the form of a contract executed between GEO and the State that required a voluntary work  
 program paying at most \$2 a day, but this contract has not been produced by the State. Dkt. 107, Ex. 7.

1 correspond to the categories in the request. Courts have long held that to meet this requirement,  
 2 parties should produce custodian information. *See Hullinger v. Anand*, 2016 WL 7444620, at \*9,  
 3 \*15 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 19, 2016) (ordering production of custodian information); *City of Colton v.*  
 4 *Am. Promotional Events, Inc.*, 277 F.R.D. 578, 584 (C.D. Cal. 2011) (identifying “custodian  
 5 information . . . among others” as “basic identifying metadata fields . . . all of which would be  
 6 readily apparent if the ESI was produced as kept in the usual course of business.”). This is because  
 7 documents kept in the usual course of business should “at a minimum” identify the origin or  
 8 “provenance” of a document, and provide “context as to their meaning.” *City of Colton* at 585.  
 9

10 None of the 477 documents produced by the State were produced with adequate custodian  
 11 information, as they list only the division within the AGO where documents were pulled, instead  
 12 of identifying individual custodians. Ex 6-7. This means one of two things: either the State only  
 13 collected from noncustodial data sources, or it did collect from individual custodians but is  
 14 obscuring that information. This calls into question whether the State has complied with its  
 15 obligation to identify and collect from individual custodians. Moreover, GEO requires adequate  
 16 custodian metadata because it contains information about who has access to documents, uses  
 17 documents, and has knowledge of documents, regardless of whether they were authored by them.  
 18 With this information, GEO could determine when individuals were put on notice concerning  
 19 GEO’s administration of the VWP, an essential component of its claims and defenses. Dkt 34 ¶  
 20 12.4 (“Washington’s agencies and officials have known about the federal Voluntary Work Program  
 21 at NWDC for many years, but have not notified GEO or ICE that the program establishes an  
 22 employment relationship or requires paying a minimum wage.”). The State’s refusal to reproduce  
 23 its production with custodian metadata is surprising considering its own production specifications,  
 24 which requested that GEO to organize documents “by custodian” – essentially custodian metadata  
 25 information. GEO is not asking the State to do more than the State has asked of GEO.  
 26

## CONCLUSION

27 For the above reasons, the Court should grant GEO’s Motion to Compel.  
 28

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1 Dated: August 30, 2018

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STATE OF WASHINGTON v. GEO GROUP  
ECF CASE NO. 3:17-CV-05806-RJB  
DEFENDANT THE GEO GROUP, INC.'S  
MOTION TO COMPEL

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Susana Medeiros, hereby certify as follows:

I am over the age of 18, a resident of New York County, and not a party to the above action. I certify that all participants in the case are registered CM/ECF users and that service will be accomplished by the CM/ECF system. On August 30, 2018, I electronically served the above Motion to Compel via CM/ECF to the following:

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6 I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the above  
7 information is true and correct.

8 DATED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018 at New York, New York.

9  
10   
11 Susana Medeiros